

We claim:

1. A one trip method of tensioning and sealing a tubular string to a wellhead, comprising:

running the tubular string and a seal assembly together into the wellhead;  
securing the string downhole;  
positioning the seal assembly in contact with the wellhead; and  
pulling a tensile force on the string, all in one trip.

2. The method of claim 1, comprising:

securing the seal assembly to the wellhead.

3. The method of claim 1, comprising:

allowing a lock ring to move between said seal assembly and the wellhead to secure said seal assembly in the wellhead.

4. The method of claim 3, comprising:

using a running tool to deliver said string and seal assembly;  
releasing said lock ring using said running tool.

5. The method of claim 4, comprising:

retaining said string with the running tool after releasing said lock ring.

6. The method of claim 5, comprising:

releasing the lock ring by rotation of the running tool.

7. The method of claim 4, comprising:

using the running tool to pull tension on said string;  
locking in the tension with a ratchet.

8. The method of claim 7, comprising:

providing a biased dog in a groove on said string having at least one exterior tooth;

securing a ratchet rack to said seal assembly;  
moving said dog with respect to said rack while tension is applied; and  
allowing said dog to retain said tension when said tooth jumps into an adjacent depression  
in said rack.

9. The method of claim 8, comprising:

building in said bias integrally into said dog.

10. The method of claim 1, comprising:

pulling said tensile force on said string before said positioning of said seal assembly;  
advancing said seal assembly into said wellhead during or after said pulling of said tensile  
force.

11. The method of claim 10, comprising:

using a hydraulic piston for said advancing.

12. The method of claim 10, comprising:

using a rack and pinion for said advancing.

13. The method of claim 10, comprising:

using a running tool to insert said string and said seal assembly into the wellhead;  
advancing said seal assembly by moving it into the wellhead with respect to said running  
tool.

14. The method of claim 13, comprising:

releasing a lock, after said advancing, to secure said seal assembly to the wellhead with  
said running tool.

15. The method of claim 1, comprising:

securing said seal assembly to a hanger; and

securing the hanger and seal assembly to the wellhead.

16. The method of claim 10, comprising:

securing said seal assembly to a hanger; and

securing the hanger and seal assembly to the wellhead.

17. The method of claim 14, comprising:

securing said seal assembly to a hanger; and

securing the hanger and seal assembly to the wellhead.

18. The method of claim 17, comprising:

providing a biased dog in a groove on said string having at least one exterior tooth;

securing a ratchet rack to said hanger;

moving said dog with respect to said rack while tension is applied; and

allowing said dog to retain said tension when said tooth jumps into an adjacent depression

in said rack.

19. The method of claim 17, comprising:

providing a seal between said string and said rack during relative movement between them.

20. The method of claim 8, comprising:

providing a seal between said string and said rack during relative movement between them.